

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Sportsmanship is a concern that we all have as administrators. The way people perceive you is a reality (at least to them). This **reality** is what the South Carolina High School League would like to address. The greatest challenge to good sportsmanship is adversity. When things are not going well the easy response is to shift the blame. In particular, to shift it away from one's self to the opponent, or more often, the officials. When this is done, the focus is away from the positive, "to play harder or better," to the negative, "how can I possibly overcome the bad calls." As administrators/coaches we feel it is essential that all athletes maintain a positive approach to handling adversity. Our standard shall be that all coaches and players compete with humility and respect all involved in the contest.

The purpose of this program is to promote and recognize exemplary conduct on the part of players, coaches and fans.

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, there will be new criteria for winning the SCHSL Sportsmanship Award. There is the possibility of having every school win the award (not just one per region). Please look over the criteria below.

Criteria to determine a sportsmanship award winner will be based on:

- **Community Service**

There are many ways a sport team can benefit your local community: Adopt-a-Highway, collecting for a food shelter; walking for a cause, reading to elementary school children; the possibilities are endless and the results are rewarding. Participation from at least one sport team per sports season.

- Form can be found in AD Notebook on League website

- **Athlete & Coach Ejections**

An ejection of athlete or coach is a major consideration.

- A school that has a coach ejection will not be eligible
- A school that has more than two student ejections (that result in suspension) will not be eligible

- **Sportsmanship Programs in your school**

Does your school have a sportsmanship plan or message for athletes? How do you share the sportsmanship plan with faculty, coaches, parents, fans and the student body?

- Please share this information with us. jan@schsl.org

- **Attendance at Sportsmanship/Leadership Summit**

Each year the SCHSL offers several leadership summits across the state for four athletes from each school who show leadership qualities.

- Registration form can be found in AD Notebook on League website

- **Sportsmanship Reports from other school and/or officials**

Please take a moment and share with our office acts of good sportsmanship you have witnessed. This form is for schools, officials & fans.

- Form can be found in AD Notebook on League website

- **NFHS On-line Sportsmanship Course**

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) developed this free course to give you a better understanding of sportsmanship, how it impacts the educational process and your specific role in modeling it at all interscholastic athletic events. Insight is shared throughout the course from fans, players, parents, teacher-coaches and officials.

- Verification from AD or principal of coaches on your staff that have completed course
- Verification from AD or principal of athletes and/or teams that have watched the course

- **Sportsmanship within your student and fan sections at events**

It takes everyone (players, coaches and school officials to spectators and fans) to ensure that proper sportsmanship is carried out at all times. The League expects each school to become involved and provide a wholesome atmosphere, an attitude of sportsmanship and a safe experience for all students, athletes and fans.